

Ohio Valley Worker.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY.

Entered as second-class matter April 13, 1904, at the Postoffice at Louisville, Ky., under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Official Paper

—OF THE—
Louisville Federated Trades Council
Trades and Labor Council, New Albany
Central Labor Union, Jeffersonville
And a Large Number of Local Unions in
the Falls Cities.

PUBLISHED BY THE
UNION PRINTING COMPANY
INCORPORATED.
ROOM 12—418 CENTER STREET.
Home Telephone 3780.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE ONE DOLLAR A YEAR



A. C. BRIGGS, Editor.

All communications intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper, and should invariably be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but for the editor's information and a guarantee of good faith.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the Freedom of Speech or of the Press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."—Constitution of the United States.

WHAT is most needed, perhaps, is workingmen who use their brains instead of laborers who use their bodies.

It is only by honest differences of opinion, and honest consideration and discussion, that we can arrive at sound conclusions and correct judgments.

THERE can be no reasonable doubt in the mind of any thinking individual that the crusade of the Parryites in favor of the "open shop," and their mouthpieces about "protecting the independent workingman," spring from a desire to defend the interests of the employer; and so far as the "independent" workingman is concerned their whole attitude is a piece of conscious hypocrisy.

LABOR DAY was the first opportunity "Col." Cronk has had to make a public exhibition of himself and his partner. We don't know how he enjoyed the ride with a man whom he has denounced up hill and down dale as the most unscrupulous scoundrel unhung, but a wag on the curb was heard to remark that if he "had Peetz and Cronk and could draw McGill and Parker he could draw the world for crookedness."

A CORRESPONDENT asks: "If a 'lique of industrial pirates in Broad street, New York, can steal thirty million dollars with a few copper mines and a stock combination; and a gang of political pirates at Springfield, Ill., can steal the representation of a great State with a chairman and a gavel, and both 'get off with the goods' amid the plaudits of their retainers and the envy of the multitude, why should a man work for daily bread?" We give up—unless it is because he still desires to eat.

THE offer of the OHIO VALLEY WORKER to send a union man and his wife on a trip to the St. Louis World's Fair, expenses paid, from each of the Falls Cities is the most generous offer ever made by any Labor paper in Louisville. In fact, it is the first and only thing ever offered the union men by their press in this vicinity. The so-called labor papers in existence in Louisville prior to the present year devote their energies to absorbing, but they never have yet offered organized labor anything except a little cheap flattery.

THE "war governor of Colorado," the infamous Peabody, discloses the real cause for his attempt to kill the unions in Colorado in these words: "We have nothing against organized labor, but when they go into politics it is time for their suppression." Labor had succeeded in adopting an eight-hour clause as an amendment to the Constitution of Colorado, and Peabody calls this "going into politics." What assurance have we that any law, for the benefit of the toilers, forced through the legislature of any State, won't meet the same military bull-pen opposition that has been witnessed in Colorado, so long as the Peabody class is in control of the offices? The only guarantee against this is to elect workingmen to office. The sooner this truth is recognized by the hosts of labor, the sooner will these military campaigns against organized labor, the bullpen, deportations, destruction of union men's property, etc., come to an end. It is the only solution of the problem.

IT OFTEN happens with one who is sick that they must grow worse and worse until the disease runs its course and the patient is purged of the cause of his affliction. This will serve as a simile to illustrate the condition of organized labor in Louisville. When it purges itself of the scoundrels and black-legs who have for years brought the movement into contempt and disgrace, then there will be chance for improvement. Control of organized labor by a gang of non-unionist blacklegs is to the labor movement in general what a case of smallpox or cholera is to an in-

dividual. This is and has been for years the deplorable condition in Louisville. Let us hope that the labor body may soon expel the virus that has caused all the trouble. It can and will do so if honest men will only assert themselves. NOW is the time to send your delegates to the Federated Trades Council—past whose portals no non-unionist may go, and especially as a delegate. It is the only central body in the city worthy of the name for this one reason alone. And it is the only vantage ground from which the cause of union labor may be consistently defended because it does not permit a mixture of outsiders and non-unionists as delegates—men who have no interest in organized labor except to use it for their various grafts.

Crooked Labor Papers.

Last week both the Journal of Labor and the New Era (two ALLEGED labor papers) printed President "Roosevelt's Labor Record"—or what purports to be such—receiving therefor, so we are informed, the sum of \$75 each.

The record is incomplete, however, in at least one or two very important particulars. No mention is made of the fact that while Governor of New York Mr. Roosevelt sent the State militia to Croton Dam to shoot down workingmen who were on strike TO ENFORCE A STATE LAW, and which his alleged record credits him with previously voting for while a member of the State legislature. This was the law which provided that eight hours should constitute a day's work on all public work in the State. The Croton Dam work came under its provisions, but the contractors who were manipulating the men who were doing the work required them to put in ten hours a day in violation of the law. They went on strike to enforce the law. Mr. Roosevelt, with that easy facility characteristic of His Strenuousness, sent the troops to the scene and many of the poor devils were shot to death and the balance driven back to work by the troops sent by this "consistent friend of the workingman," as the hoodler sheets put it.

On another occasion Mr. Roosevelt clearly proved his friendship (?) for organized labor. This is when he forced the scab open shop in the Government Printing Office at Washington. As the two "labor papers" (rats!) above named failed to mention these two bright spots in Mr. Roosevelt's labor record we supply them free-gratis-for nothing so that the "record" may be a little more complete, and so the union boys may understand what kind of "records" they have in charge of the "labor papers" in question. Don't fail to remember that they'll sell you out on every possible occasion in the future just as they have been doing in the past.

This little addition to Mr. Roosevelt's record would be incomplete, perhaps, if it were not mentioned that Judge Parker is the man who knocked out this same eight-hour law in New York State by a decision that it was unconstitutional.

What wonderful friends of labor, and what wonderful labor papers!!!

How Different in Louisville.

The Chattanooga Labor Monitor, speaking of Division No. 115, Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America, of that city, says that it is one of the most vigorous, enthusiastic and respectable unions of the city. "The Rapid Transit corporation, by which all its members are employed," says the Monitor, "has been the constant and consistent friend and ally of their unionized men. The road is 'closed.' No motorman or conductor can operate a car on that road without a union card, and no applicant can obtain such a card until he has proved good character and habits, and has demonstrated by a sufficient probation his capacity and faithfulness. No other class of citizenship in Chattanooga, not even the preachers, can show a better average of character or of fitness and faithfulness in their special duties, than the members of Local Division No. 115, all of whom are employed upon the several lines of the Rapid Transit street railway system."

Through the connivance of self-styled labor leaders in Louisville, and the operation of a spotter system by the Louisville Railway Company, the Amalgamated Association which was formerly one of the largest organizations in the city, has been wiped out, or practically so; and the subsidized "labor papers" (so-called) have nothing but praise for the corporation that has turned this trick. The facts, however, are but a verification of the biblical adage, "The ox knoweth his masters' crib." In the opinion of honest men hell is full of better men than the traitors to labor in Louisville who systematically sell out the unions to corporations, and put in their time working their graft on the politicians. For the latter offense they ought to be prosecuted for obtaining money under false pretenses. They assume to sell "influence" to the hoodlers, a thing they don't possess.

J. Henry Miller, whose ad. appears in this issue, holds the oldest card in the city in the Cigarmakers' Union. He was initiated at Decatur, Ill., in 1879, and is still a member in good standing.

The Lincoln of Labor.

The address of Eugene V. Debs to the workmen of Louisville and vicinity last Saturday night was the greatest political speech I ever listened to, considering the man who made it, the movement to which he belongs, and the momentous issues which he discussed and solved. In future years thoughtful men and women who heard that speech will recall it as men do now who listened to Abraham Lincoln a generation ago. Consider for a moment these facts:

Just before the Civil War the Slave Power of this country had control of the government, the press, pulpit, educational institutions, and all the means of creating and holding public sentiment, just as Capitalism now has the same grip upon the minds and bodies of men.

The Supreme Court of the United States declared in 1857 that the chattel slave had no rights under the law that his white master was bound to respect. That is virtually the attitude of the courts now dominated by Capitalism toward the wage-slaves of the land.

Lincoln answered this decision of the Supreme Court by saying in the senatorial race with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858: "This republic cannot long endure half slave and half free. It must soon become wholly one or the other." That is the warning uttered by Eugene V. Debs: In time every man will become a wage-slave or serf, or else wage-slavery will be abolished altogether. This end Socialism will accomplish, as Abolition did away with chattel slavery.

Jefferson Davis said in his farewell address to the Senate in January, 1861, that the chattel slave was not recognized in the Declaration of Independence; and that under the Constitution the same slave was no more than cattle, being put on a lower level than the pauper and criminal. Lincoln answered this by taking his stand upon the Declaration of Independence, and in his famous Gettysburg speech he said: "This Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom; and government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." He meant here the working people.

Davis and Lincoln were both Kentucky born. Davis belonged to the blue-blooded slave-holding aristocracy, whereas Lincoln sprang from what was then called "poor white trash." His immediate ancestors were Quakers, driven by capitalist oppression in the East to make a home in the Kentucky wilds. Hating slavery, and the abominable land-grabbing that drove Daniel Boone to Missouri, Lincoln's parents went to Indiana, then to Illinois, and as they grew up a typical pioneer toiler of the West, knowing the workingman's life by personal experience. In the same way Debs has been born to, reared in, and is now the leader of the industrial toiling class of to-day. Lincoln belonged to the "trail"; Debs belongs to the "rail," having railroaded from the time he was 15 years old until past the meridian of life. The other presidential aspirants are Eastern blue-bloods, and utter strangers to honest toil with the hands.

A delegation of the New York Workmen's Association called upon Lincoln in 1864 and announced his election as an honorary member. He accepted gratefully and said several prophetic things:

1. The same war waged to perpetuate chattel slavery meant at bottom the perpetuation of wage slavery. Both must be resisted to the end.

2. The theory that Capital is superior to Labor is a pernicious doctrine, sure to give the country trouble: "Labor is prior to and independent of Capital. Capital is only the fruit of Labor, and could never have existed if Labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of Capital, and deserves much the highest consideration."

3. He warned workingmen never to surrender their power of independent political action, else wage slavery would hold them forever. Against such a terrible contingency he said: "The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting all working people of all tongues and kindreds."

Such the Socialist movement is; and Debs, the Lincoln of Labor in America to-day, is its great-hearted, broad-minded, noble-souled leader. How any workingman can fail to vote for him, knowing the facts, is a puzzle that I cannot solve.

LUCIEN V. RULE.

Can Anything Be Plainer?

We reprint the letter from Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, and hope the Louisville Federation of Labor will now be able to see that it is violating not only its own constitution, but the ruling of the highest authority in the labor movement when it allows delegates from the Woman's Label League to sit and vote in its meetings. If the element in control of the old central body had ever desired to oust the bogus delegates it could easily have done so. With this ruling from the A. F. of L. will it dare go on doing as it has done in the past? The letter reads as follows:

"Washington, D. C., August 23, 1904.
—Mr. B. J. Sand, Louisville, Ky. Dear Sir and Brother:—Your favor of July 29th was duly received but other impor-

tant matters constantly arising, requiring attention, have prevented me from making an earlier reply.

Relative to its subject matter, I will state that while provisions have been made for the admission of delegates of the local Label Leagues, YET THE SAME RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO these leagues in the matter of the selection of delegates as to the Federal Labor Unions; that is, MEMBERS OF TRADES UNIONS CANNOT REPRESENT THEM IN THE CITY CENTRAL BODIES, STATE FEDERATIONS, OR THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

A central labor union should comprise delegates who are in accord with policies of their respective organizations, and, in order that Federal Labor Unions and Label Leagues CANNOT BE USED AS AVENUES TO REPRESENTATION IN THE CENTRAL BODIES BY MEMBERS IN THE MINORITY IN THEIR TRADES UNIONS, the above ruling was put into effect. It is not that the minority is objected to, but that they should contend for their views inside the union and not be in a position to oppose the majority outside of the organization, and thus neutralize its influence.

"Fraternalty yours,
"FRANK MORRISON,
"Secretary American Federation of Labor."

Labor Day Parades.

The parade in Louisville on Labor Day was very creditable so far as uniforms and general appearance of the marchers was concerned, but the boast from certain quarters that eighty unions would participate was not fulfilled—only twenty-nine appearing in line, and about six of them not being affiliated with the old central body. It took about 45 or 50 minutes for the parade to pass a given point. Last year nearly every union in the city joined in the parade, and the number was so great that nearly three hours were consumed in passing a given point. A careful estimate places the number in line this year at about one quarter or one third as many as took part last year.

For this unfavorable showing and state of affairs generally the central body under whose auspices the parade was given may thank no one but itself. The facts merely show that a vast number of union men refuse longer to march to Phoenix Hill (or anywhere else) at the command of a gag of non-unionists and common grafters, and that they will no longer countenance or in any way support this motley crew. Peetz, McGill & Co. have marched them up the hill for the last time.

It is with no feeling of elation or glee that we record the only partial success of the Labor Day demonstration. The most valuable lesson that may be drawn from it has already been alluded to, namely, that if union men can not manage and take care of their affairs they won't submit to control by the Peetz-McGill crowd. They are sick of it, and take the method of keeping out of the parade to show their resentment.

Let the old central body do its duty and get rid of the fraudulent and bogus delegates, enforce its own laws as it is in honor bound to do, and a new day will dawn for organized labor in Louisville.

See That They Must Fight.

C. R. Bridenstein, Denver correspondent of the Cleveland Citizen, writes that "the effort made by the Peabody-Citizens' Alliance conspirators to kill off the Rocky Mountain News because that paper persists in telling the exact truth regarding the miners' strike, is not proving very successful. While the News lost some advertising, which was withdrawn by the Parry business men, it is making up the loss from other sources and its subscription list is growing at a tremendous rate. All the organized people of Denver believe that if Peabody is successful in his campaign to demolish the Western Federation of Miners the petty tyrant will tackle the A. F. of L. unions next, as he and his capitalistic friends are determined to establish the open shop in every industry. There is no more 'pure and simple' twaddle in Denver. All the unionists are talking politics, and war to the knife has been declared against Peabody and his cohorts."

The Degenerates.

Prof. Hadley, of Amherst College, Massachusetts, in the baccalaureate sermon, said: "The fashionable society of our cities is a society of the wealthy. The rich vie with each other in the expensiveness of food, drinks, clothes and decorations. Their moral standards are low. They are the degenerates of the cities." He might have added that they are the ones who tell the working class that Socialism is in favor of free love, which they themselves practice until the paternity of their offspring is a matter of doubt. The rich families are without shame in their social relations as has been hinted at by Prof. Hadley. They have nothing else to think about as they have no duties to perform. They are just like the ruling class in all nations have been—licentious and degenerate. A pretty set of debauches to care for the chastity of a nation!—Appeal to Reason.

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